

Name: _____

ALCOHOL RISK FACTORS

Alcohol-related car crashes and alcohol poisoning are not the only dangers you have to worry about if you drink. Alcohol, especially in large quantities, can hurt you in many ways. Take a look at these statistics:

- People who start drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to become dependent on alcohol than people who start drinking later in life.
- Teens who drink alcohol are seven times more likely to have sex (and twice as likely to have sex with four or more partners) than teens who don't, putting themselves at risk for pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Drinking is also associated with a failure to use condoms.
- 55 percent of female students and 75 percent of male students involved in an acquaintance rape had been drinking or using drugs at the time.
- Teens who drink alcohol are four times more likely to drop out of school than those who don't.
- Heavy teen drinkers are twice as likely as nondrinkers to say their schoolwork is poor and five times more likely to cut class.
- Heavy teen drinkers are more than 12 times more likely than nondrinkers to use illegal drugs.
- Heavy teen drinkers are 12 times more likely than nondrinkers to be on juvenile probation and more than seven times likelier to have been arrested.
- Teen heavy or binge drinkers are more than twice as likely to say they deliberately try to hurt or kill themselves or to say they think about suicide than nondrinkers.
- There were 142,701 alcohol-related emergency room visits reported in 2004 by people ages 12-20.
- College students who say they get drunk at least once a week are three times more likely to suffer alcohol-related injuries and 75 percent more likely to be sexual assault victims.
- Alcohol is implicated in the top three causes of death for teens: accidents, homicides and suicides.